



HEADLINES

May 2, 2011

Volume 2, No. 12

If I only had a brain!

When I was growing up in the era of roof-top antennas, (that is, before cable, before satellite dishes, before streamed video, dvds, or even video tapes!) once a year *The Wizard of Oz* used to be shown on television (usually around Easter).

The big moment, when Dorothy walked out of her black and white Kansas house into a technicolour Oz, was a bit lost in my family's living room, where we only had a black and white t.v., but the wonder was there all the same.

I got thinking about those days recently, with the Somersfield production of the Wizard of Oz being a topic of constant conversations (needless to say!) in our household and wondered why that in all the years that I had watched that movie it had never dawned on me that there was a fundamental contradiction in the story. You remember that the lion had no courage, the tin woodsman, no heart, the scarecrow (of course), no brain, and Dorothy, no way home.

But, as it turned out, the lion was the bravest, the tin man the most sensitive, the scarecrow the brightest, and Dorothy could have clicked her heels and gone home any time she wanted!

In actual fact, what they lacked wasn't courage, or a heart, or a brain, or ruby shoes, what they lacked was a belief in their own abilities. As parents and educators, we know that this can happen to our children from time to time, but can it also happen to a school?

Look at Somersfield. In a year when our students' performance of *Othello* in the Shakespeare Festival was considered the best production by outside critics; and when our 6-9 students put on an outstanding elementary school opera; and, we held our second year of *Son et Lumiere* evenings; and, we mounted a full-scale musical production of *Wizard of Oz*, we still have people saying that they wish that we could be more of a "performing arts school."

"If we only had the courage!"

We can be the island champions at basketball, dominate in rugby, star in netball, and compete effectively in football, cross-country, badminton, and a host of other athletic endeavors but still hear the lament that we are not enough of a "sports school".

"If we only had the heart!"

Academically, our students excel. With our strong Montessori base and successful MYP programme we have consistently turned out graduates who can succeed anywhere. We all still suffer from the same insecurities though. Even when statistics show that MYP grads score over 100 points higher than GCSE students on international tests in Mathematics we worry about the programme! That is why it was so wonderful to see a local demonstration of our students' successes this past weekend at the Math Olympiad. In competition with all the schools from across the island, Somersfield students counted for **17 of the top 60 performances!** Included in this number were: a second place finish in P6 (**William Gressier**); third and fourth place finishes in M1; a second place finish in M2 (**Tyler Smith**); first place in M3 (**Niki Buechel**); fourth and fifth in M4; and a record setting **first, second and third places** in M5 achieved by **Liam Nash, Aidan Burke, and Tim Webb** respectively.

The last group is especially noteworthy in that they out-performed every single GCSE student in Bermuda just a few weeks before those students' Math finals!

"If we only had the brains!"

This month, when I sit in the audience and watch the *Wizard of Oz*, I will allow myself a little knowing smile. Because when I hear the lion, and the tin woodsman, and the scarecrow sing their self-deprecating laments, I will know, like the Wizard, that sometimes we can't see how good we are even when the facts stare us in the face!



WIZARD OF OZ

UPCOMING EVENTS

3-6 Sports Day

May 5th

Grandparents' Day

May 6th

6-9 Sports Day

May 20th

Wizard of Oz

May 20th/21st

Spring Fair

May 28th